OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

BEFORE THE UNITED STATES FEDERAL ELECTION COMMISSION

David Kelly

MUR No. 7408

Roseville, CA 95661

Gary Gutowsky

Roseville, CA 95661

V.

Jessica Morse (FEC ID: H8CA04210)

Pollock Pines, CA 95726

Jessica Morse for Congress (FEC ID: C00650408) 1079 Sunrise Ave., Ste B-275 Roseville, CA 95661

Stephen Smallcombe, Treasurer Jessica Morse for Congress 1079 Sunrise Ave., Ste B-275 Roseville, CA 95661

COMPLAINT

- This complaint is filed pursuant to 52 U.S.C. § 30109(a)(1). It is based on information and belief that Jessica Morse, a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives in California's 4th District, her principal campaign committee, and her committee's treasurer, Stephen Smallcombe, have violated provisions of the Federal Election Campaign Act ("FECA"), 52 U.S.C. § 30101 et seq.
- 2. Specifically, the complainants have reason to believe that Ms. Morse, her principal campaign committee, and her committee's treasurer (hereinafter collectively "the Morse Campaign" or "her Campaign") have violated 52 U.S.C. § 30104 by failing to report, in

- their April 2018 quarterly and Pre-Primary filings with this Commission, \$100,000 or more in spending relating to her Campaign's substantial direct mail voter outreach efforts.
- 3. "If the Commission, upon receiving a complaint... has reason to believe that a person has committed, or is about to commit, a violation of [FECA]... [t]he Commission shall make an investigation of such alleged violation..." 52 U.S.C § 30109(a)(2) (emphasis added).

FACTS

- 4. The complainants are residents of California's 4th Congressional District who are duly registered to vote in the district.
- 5. Over the course of the last six weeks, the complainants have received via U.S. Mail copies of the direct mail voter outreach materials ("mailers") reproduced as Exhibits A, B, and C to this Complaint. Each of the aforementioned mailers bears the prominent disclaimer that it was "Paid for by Jessica Morse for Congress." *Id*.
- 6. On information and belief, the Morse Campaign has sent all three of the aforementioned mailers to tens of thousands of voters throughout California's 4th Congressional District.
- 7. On a careful review of the Morse Campaign's April 2018 quarterly and Pre-Primary filings with the Commission (dated April 15, 2018 and May 24, 2018, respectively), "printing" and "postage" are the only categories of expenses reported by the Morse Campaign that could conceivably account for its spending on its direct mail program.
- 8. In its April 2018 quarterly filing with this Commission, the Morse Campaign reports having spent \$402.19 on postage¹ and \$3375.24 on printing² during the first quarter of

¹ Transaction IDs VTQ7D9QT430, VTQ7D9QT3Z0, VTQ7D9QT471, VTQ7D9QT3T1, VTQ7D9QT422, VTQ7D9QT3Y2, VTQ7D9QT463, VTQ7D9QT414, VTQ7D9QT3X4, VTQ7D9QT455, VTQ7D9QT4A5, VTQ7D9QT406, VTQ7D9QT3W6, VTQ7D9QT497, VTQ7D9QT448, VTQ7D9QT3V8, and VTQ7D9QT489.

² Transaction IDs VTQ7D9QT786, VTQ7D9QYPA6, and VTQ7D9QT778.

2018. In its Pre-Primary filing submitted to this Commission, the Morse Campaign reports having spent \$880.39 on postage³ and \$4105.08 on printing⁴ during the period between April 1 and May 16, 2018. Neither of the Morse Campaign's two most recent filings with this Commission disclose any loans, debts, or obligations to any natural or legal person, nor any in-kind contributions for postage or printing services.

- 9. In view of the size and scope of the Morse Campaign's direct mail program, the complainants have reason to believe that the Morse Campaign has underreported its spending by \$100,000 or more.
- 10. The Morse Campaign's significant under-reporting of its spending on direct mail becomes obvious when compared with the expenditures reported to the FEC by Regina Bateson (ID: H8CA04194), who is also running for Congress in California's 4th District.
- 11. On information and belief, Bateson's direct mail program is similar in scope to Morse's.

 The Bateson campaign reported in its Pre-Primary filing spending of \$161,200.51 for direct mail production between April 1 and May 16 of this year.⁵
- 12. In the period between January 1 and May 16 of this year, by contrast, the Morse Campaign has reported a total of just \$8762.90 in spending on printing and mailing, despite operating a large direct mail program.

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

13. FECA requires the treasurer of a political committee to file periodic reports of receipts and disbursements with this Commission. 52 U.S.C. §30104(a)(1). Such reports must

³ Transaction IDs VTQ7D9RQCS0, VTQ7D9QT8Z0, VTR6NDJ10R1I, VTQ7D9RQCR2, VTQ7D9RQCQ4, VTQ7D9RQCP7, VTQ7D9RQCT8, and VTQ7D9RPRR9.

⁴ Transaction IDs VTQ7D9RPS10, VTQ7D9RPYS0, VTQ7D9RPS03, and VTQ7D9RPRZ5.

⁵ Transaction IDs 500031896 and 500031897.

include "the name and address of each person to whom an expenditure in an aggregate amount or value in excess of \$200 within the calendar year is made by the reporting committee to meet a candidate or committee operating expense, together with the date, amount, and purpose of such operating expenditure." 52 U.S.C. §30104(b)(5)(A).

- 14. FECA defines "expenditure" as "any purchase, payment, distribution, loan, advance, deposit, or gift of money or anything of value, made by any person for the purpose of influencing any election for Federal office...." 52 U.S.C. § 30101(9)(A)(i).
- 15. FECA also requires political committees to disclose in their periodic reports "the amount and nature of outstanding debts and obligations owed by or to such political committee...." 52 U.S.C. § 30104(b)(8).
- 16. On the basis of the facts alleged above, the complainants have reason to believe that the Morse Campaign has violated FECA either by failing to report \$100,000 or more of expenditures on direct mail, in violation of 52 U.S.C. § 30104(b)(5)(A), or by failing to report debts or obligations of \$100,000 or more if the Campaign has made arrangements to repay in the future expenses that have been incurred in the last two reporting periods, in violation of 52 U.S.C. § 30104(b)(8).

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

17. Wherefore, the Commission should find reason to believe that Jessica Morse, her principal campaign committee, and Stephen Smallcombe, the treasurer of said committee, have violated FECA, including 52 U.S.C. § 30104, and should conduct an immediate investigation under 52 U.S.C § 30109. Further, the Commission should determine and impose appropriate sanctions for any and all violations, should enjoin the respondents

from any and all violations in the future, and should impose such additional remedies as are necessary and appropriate to ensure compliance with the FECA.

May 25, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

David Kelly

Roseville, CA 95661

Gary Gutowsky

Roseville, CA 95661

VERIFICATION

The complainants listed below hereby verify that the statements made in the attached Complaint are, upon their information and belief, true.

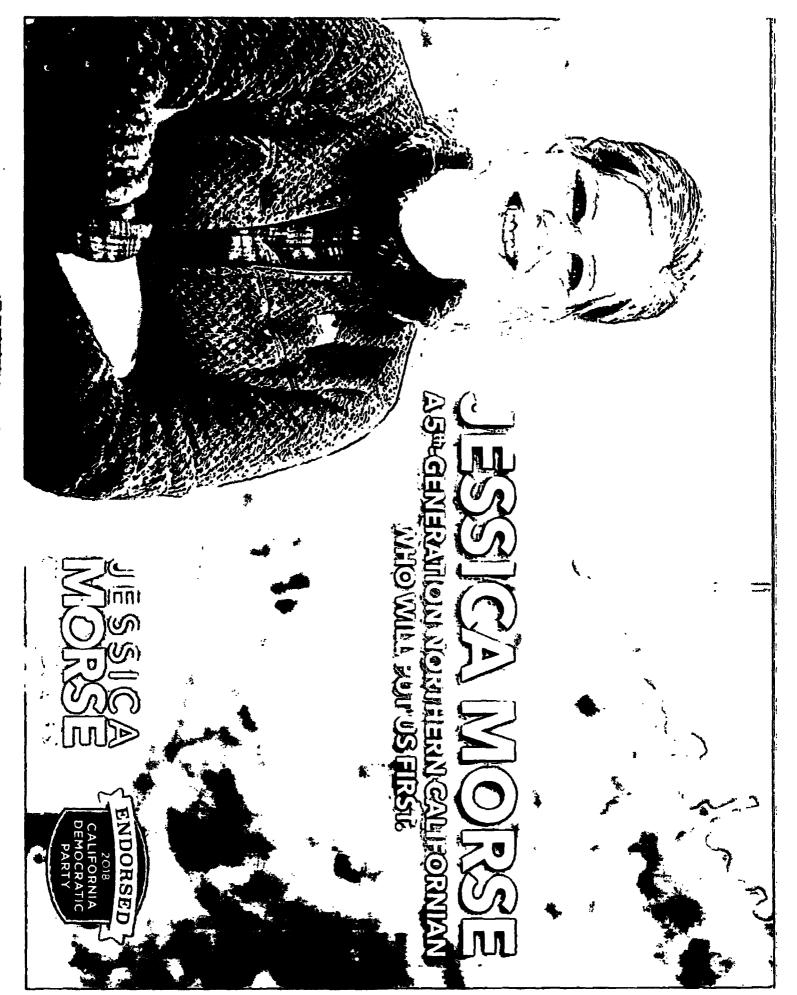
Sworn under penalties of perjury.

David Kelly

Gary Gutowsky

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Exhibit A



JMO 1802

. I've hiked the length of our Congress, I will always put our of our makural resources. In the importance and beauty and fished its rivers - I know district, skied its mountains, community ahead of politics."

our district faces many challenges that Congress has who attended our local public schools. She knows community that shaped her. quality healthcare, Jessica Morse is ready to serve the Jessica Morse is a 5th-generation Northern Californian ignored. From wildfires and droughts to affordable,

JESSICA MORSE WILL

more affordable. education and make college invest in early childhood



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Paid for by Jessica Morse for Congress

🗭 @Morse4America | 🐧 Morse4America

Morse4Congress.com

Exhibit B

JESSICA MORSE:

5TH GENERATION NORTHERN CALIFORNIAN. HIKED, FISHED, AND SKIED THE LENGTH OF OUR DISTRICT. READY TO SERVE OUR COMMUNITY.

Meanwhile, Congressman McClintock lives 22 miles outside our district it's no wonder he's forgotten us in Washington.¹ Jessica Morse is one of us with local roots dating back over 100 years. Her great-grandmother, Edith, manual the telegraph booth near Donner Pass with only a pisted by her side. Rep. McClintock ignored the issues facing our community like wildlines, droughts, and affordable healthcare because he doesn't live here. Jessica Morse is ready to light for our community and wilk

- agreet to early difflicted and early difflicted
- O Rechro healthcare costs and light attempts to dp coverage away from millions.
- Develop more vocational training options, so our community has jobs and employers have a skilled local workforce.









JESSICA MORSE FOR CONGRESS Paid for by Jessica Morse for Congress

1079 Sunrise Ave., Ste B-275, Roseville, CA 95661

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JESSICA MORSE FOR CONGRESS

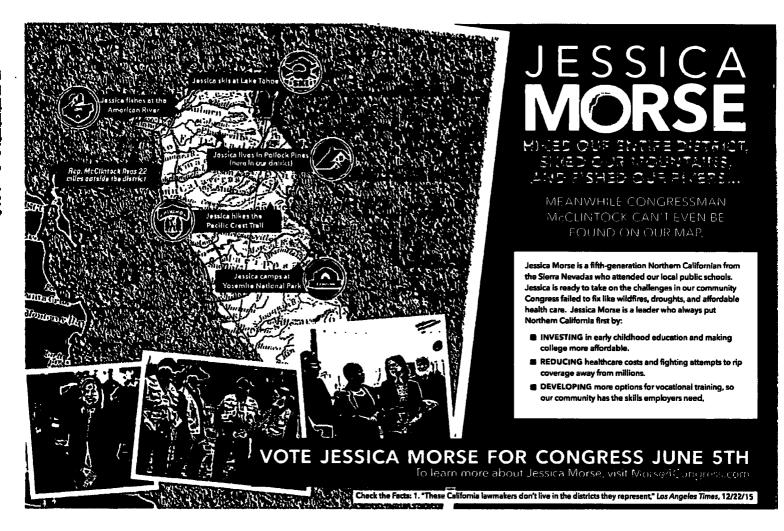
Morse4Congress.com | 😂 @Morse4America | 👣 Morse4America



Exhibit C

I'm a fifth generation
Northern Californian
whose family still protects
the land our ancestors
settled after crossing the
Sierras. Jam one of you
and will always fight for our
community in Congress.

JESSICA MORSE FOR CONGRESS



PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LAS VEGAS, NV
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JMO_,1803 Pioneer



★ Morse4congress.com

@morse4America

facebook.com/Morse4America

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